## FARINGDON RURAL DISTRICT.

### ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1937

W. SISAM, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H. Medical Officer of Health,



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BY

W. SISAM, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H. Medical Officer of Health.

#### To the Faringdon Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit my report for the year 1937 upon the health and sanitary circumstances of your district.

The contents and arrangement of the report follow the lines laid down in Circular 1650 (England) of the Ministry of Health.

As compared with the averages of the preceding 10 years, the birth-rate shows a slight increase, the death-rate a moderate increase and the rate of infant mortality a slight reduction.

Though few cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever were notified, 2 deaths due to the former and 1 to the latter rendered the death-rates and case-mortalities of both diseases unusually high. On the other hand, non-notifiable infectious diseases were responsible for 2 deaths only — both due to Influenza.

The comprehensive scheme (referred to in the reports for 1935 and 1936) for the provision of public water supplies for the greater part of the district was approved by your Council and towards the end of the year, was submitted to the Ministry of Health with an application for consent to the necessary loan.

Good progress was made towards the relief of overcrowding of working-class dwellings, and at the close of the year only a small proportion of cases remained unabated.

Your obedient servant,

W. SISAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

Bank Chambers,
Cross Street,
Reading. (Telephone No. 4647).

June, 1938.

#### FARINGDON RURAL DISTRICT.

# Statistics and Social Conditions of the District.

726
200
064
899
165

The district is almost entirely agricultural and residential in character, and contains no industries detrimental to the public health.

Faringdon, the market town, has a population of about 2,700.

#### Extracts from Vital Statistics of the year: -

		Total.	M	F	
	( Legitimate	133	77 !	56)	Birth Rate per 1,000
Live Births	Legitimate  Illegitimate			- €	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 15.2
	( Illegitimate	7	5	2)	ident population 15.2
Stillbirths	•••	3	3	-	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 21
Deaths		131	70	61	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 14.2
Deaths from	n puerperal ca	uses :	-		
			De	eaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puer	peral sepsis		•••	0	0.00
Othe	er puerperal ca	uses	• • •	2	13.99
Death Rate	of Infants un	der one	year o	of age	:
All l	nfants per 1,0	oo live	births		36
Legi	timate infants	per 1,0	oo legi	itimate	e live births 30
	itimate infants	-			

Death	s fron	n Cancer	•••	•••	•••	16
,,	22	Measles (all a	iges)	•••	•••	Nil
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	,,	Whooping C	ough (all a	ges)	•••	Nil
1)	,,	Diarrhœa (un	ider two ye	ars of age)	***	Nil
Avera	ge rai	tes for the 10 v	ears, 1927-	-1936 : <del>-</del>		

Birth-rate 14.8 Death-rate 12.5 Infant Mortality 41. The principal vital statistics of England and Wales for the year 1937 are as follows:—

Birth-rate 14.9 Death-rate 12.4 Infant Mortality 58. Of the 131 persons belonging to the district whose deaths were registered during the year, 85 were aged 65 years or upwards—13 being between 65 and 70, 23 between 70 and 75, 26 between 75 and 80, 15 between 80 and 85, 7 between 85 and 90, and 1 of over 90 years.

In order to render the death-rates of different districts comparable with one another or with the death-rate of the whole country, corrections for inequalities of the age and sex composition of the populations are necessary. For this purpose the Registrar-General has supplied for each district a comparability factor, arrived at after elaborate calculations based upon the sex-age groups in the 1931 census population and the mortality rates experienced in England and Wales during the three years 1930/32.

For this district the factor is 0.81. When multiplied by this figure the death-rate of 1937 becomes reduced to 11.54, which may fairly be compared with the rate of 12.4 for the whole of England and Wales.

# General Provision of Health Services for the District.

No changes were made during the year in any of the following services:—

Laboratory Facilities, Ambulance Facilities, Treatment Centres and Clinics, Hospitals.

Changes in home nursing consisted of the extension of the midwifery and maternity services of the Buckland Nursing Association to include the parish of Eaton Hastings, and extension of similar services, provided by the Stanford-in-the-Vale Nursing Association, to include the parishes of Baulking, Uffington and Woolstone.

The whole of the district is now provided with midwifery and maternity services, but 6 of the total of 25 parishes are still without organised general nursing.

The only ambulance available for non-infectious cases is the motor ambulance attached to Wantage Cottage Hospital, in Wantage Urban District. Infectious cases are provided for by the motor ambulances of Abingdon Joint Isolation Hospital, in Abingdon Urban District.

Public Health Officers.—In addition to the Medical Officer of Health, the staff consisted of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. C. C. Sampson, and one clerk. Mr. Sampson, who is also inspector of new buildings, is a whole-time officer. He holds the certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute for sanitary inspectors and for inspectors of meat and other foods.

#### Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Water.—The only instances of shortage of public water supplies during the year occurred in the villages of Ashbury and Bourton. At Ashbury the drive water of the ram became insufficient, and a temporary pump was put into use. It was necessary also to conserve the water at the source, by shutting off the supply at night and by the issue of notices warning against waste. At Bourton the supply was adequate at the source, but, owing to lack of pressure in the reservoir, which is filled by gravitation from springs, and heavy drawing-off from the mains before the village was reached, difficulty in maintaining the supply to the villages was at times experienced.

Shortage of private supplies was, so far as is known, limited to the wells of two groups of Council houses, where the shortage was overcome by lowering of the suction pipes.

No new public supplies were provided during the year, but a comprehensive scheme for the supply of the greater part of the district was approved by the Council and submitted to the Ministry of Health, with applications for consent to borrow the necessary sum and for confirmation of an order made for the compulsory purchase of land required for the waterworks.

The villages of Ashbury and Bourton are included in this scheme.

The cartage of water to a group of Council houses in the village of Hinton Waldrist was continued pending the provision of a public supply for the village, which also is included in the comprehensive scheme.

Samples of water from all the public supplies were analysed during the year, and, in addition, samples from the Ashbury and Faringdon supplies were examined bacteriologically.

The results were satisfactory in all cases.

Drainage and Sewerage.—At Ashbury, the new sewage disposal works, referred to in last year's report, were completed and put into operation.

No additional changes in systems of sewerage or sewage disposal were made during the year.

Public Cleansing.—No changes were made in the system of collection and disposal of refuse which was instituted in 1934 and which continued to give satsfaction.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.—The following summary of work done during the year has been compiled by Mr. Sampson, the Sanitary Inspector:—

No. of Different Premises visited	•••	1137
" Inspections made …	•••	4020
,, Complaints received		16
" Defects or Nuisances discovered	•••	201
Notices served Informal	•••	168
( Statutory	•••	7
,, Prosecutions	•••	_
No. of Defects or Nuisances abated :		
As to Privies, W.C.'s, Sink wastes, etc.		5
" Drains or Cesspools		11
,, Pigs or other animals	•••	I
" Cowsheds, Dairies and Slaughter-houses	s	24
,, Deficient or impure water	•••	
" Unclean houses	•••	
,, Overcrowded houses	•••	2 I
,, Polluted ditches, streams, etc	• •	3
,, Insanitary accumulations or deposits	• •	
,, Other defects or nuisances No. of Premises disinfected	•••	3
Water camples taken for analysis	•••	18
Walls closed	•••	17
Walls cleaned renaired or deepened	•••	I
, New wells sunk	•••	9
Houses connected with water mains	•••	7
,, Water certificates granted	•••	13
, Seizures or surrenders of unsound	or	
diseased food	•••	96
" Conservancy closets replaced by W.C.'s	•••	2
Canal boats, No. of Inspections	•••	
Common Lodging-houses No. on Register	•••	
No. of Inspection	s	
Milkshops, No. on Register	•••	6
Cowsheds and Dairy Farms, ,, "	•••	210
Slaughter-houses ,, ,,		22
Milkshops, No. of Inspections	•••	24
Cowsheds and Dairy Farms, ,, ,,	•••	342
Slaughter-houses, ,, ,,	•••	618
Piggeries ", ",	•••	54

#### FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

I. INSPECTION.

		1. IN	SPECT	rion.		
	In	spectio	ns	Number of		
	Premises.	Made.	V	Vritten notic	es Prosec	cutions.
Ι.	Factories	I		0	c	)
2.	Workshops	196		2	c	
3.	Workplaces	50		O	0	
	Total	247		2	C	•
	II.	DEFEC	TS F	OUND.		
					er of Defe Referred	cts
		E.	ound	Remedied		Prosecu
		1. (	Junu	Remedied	Inspector	tions
	to the Dol	12 -			inspector	(10113
INI	uisances under the Pub	nic				
	Health Acts:— Want of cleanline	.c.c	I	1	0	0
	Want of ventilation		0	0	0	0
	Overcrowding		0	0	0	0
	Want of drainag	ge of		, and the second se	<u> </u>	
	floors	•••	0	0	o	0
	Other nuisances	•••	I	2	0	0
Sa	anitary accommodation	:				
	Insufficient	•••	0	0	0	0
	Uusuitable or defe	ective	0	0	0	0
	Not separate for	sexes	ĭ	1	0	0
0	ffences under Factory	and				
	Workshops Acts:—					
	Breach of special					
	tary requiremen	its for				
	bakehouses	•••	I	Ĭ	0	0
	Other offences	•••	0	0	0	0
			4	5	0	0
	III. Home	Work	-0	UTWORKER'	Liere	
	III. HOME	VVOR	Nil	OI WORKER	121313.	
	IV. F	REGIST	ERED	Workshops	S.	
V	Torkshops on Register					•
					••	. 14
	Others		••	• •••	••	. 113
						127
						/

V. OTHER MATTERS. Nil.

Shops.—All shops inspected during the year under those provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, which relate to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences were found to be satisfactory, with the exception of one case in which a sanitary convenience was defective and was remedied under informal notice.

Smoke Abatement. —No action was found necessary.

Swimming Baths and Pools.—No swimming baths or pools were open to the public during the year.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.—Bugs are rare in the district and no case of infestation was discovered during the year.

In the few cases which have been dealt with in previous years sulphur fumigation of the houses, with steam disinfection of bedding, have been employed.

Up to the present, no special methods of ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses have been practised.

Schools.—The whole of the elementary schools in the district were inspected and no serious defects of sanitation were discovered. Water-closets connected with the sewers are provided only in the town of Faringdon and the village of Ashbury; elsewhere so-called earth-closets are installed, but earth is very rarely used as a covering medium.

Water supplies are obtained from the mains where public supplies exist.

Reports upon infectious diseases amongst school-children are sent to me, through the County Medical Officer of Health, by the head-teachers. The working arrangement is for the County Medical Officer to deal with non-notifiable infectious diseases and for me to deal with notifiable infectious diseases affecting schools, but this arrangement is subject to modification in exceptional circumstances.

The recommendations of the Memorandum on Closure of and Exclusion from School, issued in 1927 jointly by the Ministry of Health and the Board of Education, are followed in practically all cases.

#### Housing.

A total of 18 houses were erected during the year, all working class dwellings provided by private persons.

Three houses were re-conditioned with the aid of grants under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts amounting to a total of £246.

## Housing Statistics.

1. In (1)	housin	welling Houmber of dware g defects ng Acts)	elling-house (under Pul	s inspected	for or	
		of inspection		r the nurn		791
	(a) Number sub-he	of dwelling ead (1) abov corded under	g-houses (i re) which w the Housin	ncluded un were inspec	der ted ted	978
		ations, 1925 of inspectio		··· r the purp		357 413
	Number of dy	•	es found to jurious to h	be in a st	ate	9
(4)	Number of or referrence found	dwelling-hou ed to under not to be in	uses (exclust the precedual all respects	ing sub he	ad)	ŕ
2. Re	emedy of defe			 nout service	e of	145
			finformal	action by		7 2
	ction under st Proceedings u Housi	atutory pow	ers during to ns 17, 18 a o, or section	the year:—and 23 of is 9, 10, and	the	, -
		of dwelling- s were serve			ich 	6
	ed fit	of dwelling- after service	of formal r		ler-	
	(a)	By Owners	A (	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	···	5
	(D)	By Local Owners		in default	01	Nil
		of dwelling-	houses in re	spect of wh	ich	
	notice remed	s were serve ied	a requiring	defects to	be	1
	(2) Number	of dwelling emediedafte	-houses in r service of t	which defe formal notic	ects es:	
	(a) (b)	By Owners By Local	 Authority	•••	•••	I
		Owners	***	• • •	•••	Nil

(c)	Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930, or sections 11 and 13 of the	
	Housing Act, 1936:—	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which	
	Demolition Orders were made	9
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in	
	pursuance of Demolition Orders	22
(d)		
, ,	1930, or section 12 of the Housing Act,	
	1936:	Nil
4.	Housing Act, 1936Part IVOvercrowding:-	
	) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end	
` ′	of the year	6
	(2) Number of families dwelling therein	6
	(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	40
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported	
` '	during the year	5
(c)		
,	during the year	2 I
	(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	I 27 ½ *
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses	
	have again become overcrowded after the	
	Local Authority have taken steps for the	
	abatement of overcrowding	Nil
	The position at the end of 1037 was that 88 per cent of	the

The position at the end of 1937 was that 88 per cent of the total cases of overcrowding found during, and after, the district survey of 1936 had been relieved.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.—No legal action with respect to the milk supply was taken during the year. Improvements in structural conditions of milking sheds and dairies, carried out after informal notices, included the following:—The provision of proper concrete floors in the place either of stone pitching or of porous brick in 6 cases; the provision of 2 new cooling houses and 3 new milking sheds; and improvement of lighting and ventilation of 1 milking shed.

Cleanliness tests were applied to 25 samples of milk retailed in the district. In only one case was an unsatisfactory result given; and in this instance a warning to the responsible person was

effectual.

During the year the Local Authority granted a licence to retail tuberculin tested milk and a supplementary licence to retail pasteurised milk.

At the end of the year the district contained I farm licensed for the production of tuberculin tested milk and 34 farms licensed for the production of accredited milk.

<sup>\*</sup>Under the overcrowding provisions of the Act a child between the ages of land 10 years is counted as half-a-person, and an infant under 1 year of age is not counted as an occupant.

One herd in the district is attested, under the Tuberculosis (Attested Herds) Scheme, as being free from reactors to tuberculin.

No samples of milk were submitted to bacteriological examination on behalf of the Local Authority.

Meat and other Foods.—During the year a total of 618 visits were paid to the 22 slaughter-houses in the district.

No legal action was found to be necessary.

The use of one licensed slaughter-house was discontinued towards the end of the year, leaving the total at 21.

The following table shows the numbers of carcases inspected and the results of inspection :--

#### Carcases inspected and condemned.

Cattle

	including Cows*	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	_	-		-
Number inspected	600	90	1593	872
All diseases except Tuber- culosis Whole carcases condemned	42	3	3	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	67	3	2	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	18.17	6.6	0.31	1.03
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases condemned	34		_	2
. Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	76			I 2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	18.3	0.00	0.00	1.61

<sup>\*</sup>No separate records for cows and for cattle other than cows have been kept.

No attempt to dispose of any of the diseased meat had been made and voluntary surrender was accepted in all cases. The condemned articles were sent to a local knacker's yard, excepting in the case of small portions which were buried by the butchers concerned. Disposal was supervised in all cases.

Apart from butchers' meat, no food unfit for human consumption was found during inspection of premises where food is sold, stored or prepared for sale.

The 14 bakehouses received 37 visits of inspection. Excepting for one instance of delay in carrying out the statutory limewashing, no faults of any consequence were found.

### Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Disease.

## Notifiable Diseases, other than Tuberculosis, during the year.

Disease.		Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
Small Pox	•••	_		
Diphtheria	•••	3	2	2
Scarlet Fever	•••	6	4	I
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	•••	_		_
Puerperal Fever	•••	_	_	_
Puerperal Pyrexia	•••	I	1*	-
Pneumonia		5	_	4 (all forms)
Erysipelas	•••	2	2*	_

<sup>\*</sup> Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

#### Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

	Cases.					
Notified	Treated.		Vision un- impaired	Vision impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
	At Home	In Hospital				<i>.</i>
I	0	1	I	0	0	0

All three of the notified cases of Diphtheria arose in the town of Faringdon. An additional case occurred in the town, but the patient was an inmate of the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, when the diagnosis was made and, in accordance with the regulations, this notification was sent to the Medical Officer of Health of that This patient was a boy of 8, whose initial symptoms had been overlooked, and for whom medical attendance had not been sought until signs of heart failure set in, at which time his throat was normal in appearance. Death took place the day after admission to the hospital Two other cases occurred in the same family—one at about the same time as the boy was presumed to have been taken ill, the other about six months later. The latter was an adult, for whom medical attendance was first sought on the third day of illness, by which time the patient was too ill to be removed to hospital or to respond to antitoxin. Death occurred on the following day. The case which survived was a girl, aged 12, who was first seen by her doctor about a fortnight after the onset of illness.

The circumstances of the last case in the household suggested that infection had been derived from a carrier amongst the other members of the family, but repeated swabs, taken from both throats and noses of all the other members (8 in number) failed to show Diphtheria bacilli.

The cases of Scarlet Fever consisted of 4 in one family in Faringdon, 1 at Great Coxwell and 1 at Stanford-in-the-Vale. One of the Faringdon cases had remained unrecognised and had received no medical attendance until after the other mambers had developed the disease. The Stanford case, of which no clue to the source of infection could be found, died in hospital some three months after the onset of illness.

The case of Puerperal Pyrexia ended in complete recovery.

#### Tuberculosis.

		New Cases.				Deaths.			
Age Periods.	Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.		Pulmo	onary.	Non- Pulmonary.		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
01 1-5 5-10 10-15 15-20 20-25 25-35				I - I					
35-45 45-55 55-65 65 & upwards	I [				I				
Totals	4	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	

The two fatal cases of tuberculosis had been duly notified.

Other Causes of Sickness.—Apart from Influenza, which was chiefly prevalent in January, and which was responsible for two deaths, and Whooping Cough, which became epidemic at Great Coxwell about the middle of the year, no noteworthy causes of sickness, other than notifiable disease, were evident.

No school was closed on account of infectious disease, and the only school in which the attendance was reduced by infectious disease to below 60 per cent. of the average was Great Coxwell C. of E. where Whooping Cough caused such reduction during five weeks in June and July.

#### Laboratory Work, Etc.

The Local Authority bear the cost of antitoxin used for the treatment of Diphtheria. This is supplied from my office; and I ampoule (8,000 units) was issued during the year.

Bacteriological examinations made at the cost of the Local Authority consisted of 26 swabs examined for Diphtheria bacilli, with 3 positive and 23 negative results. These examinations were conducted at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading.

Chemical analyses of water were made by the County Analyst, and bacteriological examinations of water by the Pathologist of the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

# Causes of Death in Faringdon Rural District, 1937.

C	AUSES OF DEATH-				Males	Females
ALI	CAUSES	1			70	61
1.	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers					
2.	Measles				_	_
3.	Scarlet Fever				_	1
4.	Whooping Cough					
5.	Diphtheria				1	1
6.	Influenza				2	_
7.	Encephalitis lethargica				-	
8.	Cerebro-spinal fever				_	
9.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system				2	
10.	Other tuberculous diseases	•••			_	
11.	Syphilis				_	
12.	General paralysis of the insane, tabes	dorsalis			_	
13.	Cancer, malignant disease		• •	• • •	9	7
14.	Diabetes			• • •	1	1
15.	Cerebral hæmorrhage				6	7
16.	Heart Disease		•••	• • • •	18	22
17.	Aneurysm	• • •	• • •		_	_
18.	Other circulatory diseases				$\frac{2}{2}$	
19.	Bronchitis			•••	7	3
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)			• • •	2	2
21. 22.	Other respiratory diseases	•••		• • • •	_	1
23.	Peptic ulcer	•••	•••	• • • •	_	1
23. 24.	Diarrhea, &c. (under 2 years)				1	
$\frac{24.}{25.}$	Appendicitis	• • •	••	•••	,	_
26.	Cirrhosis of liver Other diseases of liver, &c	***	•••	• • • •		1
27.		•••	•••	•••	1	1
28.	Other digestive diseases Acute and chronic nephritis		•••	•••	3	$\frac{1}{2}$
29.	D 1 1			•••		
30.	Other puerperal causes					2
31.	Congenital debility, premature birth			&c.	_	4
32.	Senility		1401011,			1
33.	Suicide				3	
34.	Other violence				5	1
35.	Other defined diseases				5	3
36.	Canses ill defined or unknown				$\tilde{2}$	_
	Special Causes (include	d in No. 3	5 abov	_		
		a In 210. c	121001	<u></u>		
	ll-pox					_
	omyelitis	•••		•••		
Polic	pencephalitis	•••	• • •	•••		
	( Total				1	4
Deat	ths of infants under 1 year { Legiti	imate	• • •		1	3
	( Illegi	timate				1
	( Total				82	58
LIV	E BIRTHS { Legit				77	56
	( Illegi	timate			5	2
	( Total				3	
STII	LLBIRTHS Legiti	mate			3	_
	( Illegit	imate	•••		_	_
Popu	lation					9,200
1						



